

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the present application, Claims 1-24 having been amended to address cosmetic matters of form. New Claim 25 is added to recite similar features to Claim 1 without means-plus-function terminology. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter; and Claims 1-16 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the examiner's indication that Claims 1-16 are allowed.

In reply, the specification has been amended such that Applicants' use of "N" is uniquely defined. Thus, the objection to the specification is believed to have been overcome.

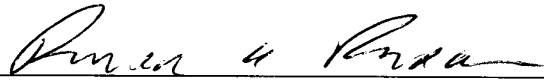
Regarding the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection, Claim 1-24 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis matters. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection is believed to have been overcome.

Finally, Claim 17 has been amended to recite a computer readable medium encoded with a computer program configured to cause an information processing apparatus to execute a method, and thus defines statutory subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection has been overcome.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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